

WESTERN REGION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
March 9, 2009

Those in Attendance:

Brandy Andersen
Lonaka Clarke
Casey Christopherson
John Bonnett
Kara Taylor
Troy Gasser
John Thill
Wendy Bunnell
David Bayles
Beverly Hart
Derek Clair
LoAn Le
Ha Khong

Sherri Engar
Elisabeth Williams
John Moody
Laura Blanchard
Terri Sawyer
Renee Calkins
Rebekah Olsen
Evelyn Cloward
Miriam Campbell
Vicky Proctor
Ronda Gates
Judy Robertson

Wendy Bunnell: Committee Chair

All partners were welcomed and new members introduced.

Drug Court Video

- Lonaka from Drug Court Alumni; wants the word to get out to users where they can turn for help. She discussed the video "Happy Valley" and how it explains what drugs do to your life. But it doesn't have the piece of where you can go to seek help. She wants to make the video to go to high schools to show where and how to get the services that can change their lives as addicts. She said when she was using she tried to find this type of help and it was hard to come by. Lonaka wants this video to show the positive side of drug court.
- Brandy, also with Drug court Alumni has been clean for 5 years. She said that the negative outweighs the positive for information out there right now. Addicts need to see that they can succeed. This could be good for people just getting into drug court. They need this type of information to give them hope.

- The foster Care Foundation would like to see a segment where the kids have been in custody with an out of home placement. To show that the biological parents can work together with the foster parents and the parents are successful in their treatment.
- Derek from BLUEFROG stated the Video's effectiveness is #1

Objectives:

Small production

Something short with great impact

Linked to Utah County Substance Abuse, even PBS distribution?

It needs to show the positive side of Drug court, treatment, etc.

Distribution:

Druggies want to look at it? Not sure that the addict would seek it out.

Two ways to meet objective would be to get into the hands of family and friends.

Higher success rates would be to give to the general public who has family that they could give the video to.

- Wendy agreed that family member's hands would be more productive for the distribution.
- It could also be helpful to show to a client who has a poor attitude the video may help adjust attitude.
- Give to foster parents or to Foster Care Foundation to open foster parents minds to more empathy.

Documentary

- A documentary would need to follow the money and it would be an outside sponsor.
- It would need to show how drug court saves tax payer dollars. Derek stated that you get more viewers when this type of information is put into a documentary. The tax payers can then see the merit of the Drug Court program.

Execution:

- When they follow a character driven family; success is epic. Possibly 2 or 3 families. Tell a story of the whole system of drug court.

- Things to consider: are the characters going to present well.
- Another side would be to ask the kids of the addicts how everything in the system had impacted them.
- What is in front of camera - current - real live person going through the system?
- The general public would be interested.
- Confidentiality?
- Time wise is a big deal. It needs to be at least 20 or 25 minutes.

Private Donor best

- The public does not see this as another advertisement for a specific program.
- If each character told stories about success with different organizations it might work. We could get that done but it would not be a documentary.
- Two stories that work to highlight and spot lights drug court.
- One alumni person who has deep pockets; we might want to ask them for help to get the information out.

General interest

- School Level?
- Is it positive?
- For families- can kids benefit?
- Who is the audience?
- Where are we directing it?
- Who do we show case DCFS, Foster parents?

It should be to improve outcome for our children.

Good objective

- To isolate someone who is just fresh who has a story to tell, get them on camera.
- One that has just started drug court and one that is almost done with a good outcome.
- Supportive interviews with all department agencies, back to drug court to finish off

We will keep Derek informed of process and Wendy will talk about budget.

Derek stated the time in editing room is where the money goes...to polish.

Mentor Program

- **Troy Gasser** - Transition to Adult Living Coordinator (TAL)
From DCFS perspective we are at a crossroads.
Karla with the Safety-Net program does a fantastic job. She came to us from JJS. She has been asked to re-focus on DCFS kids our TAL kids from ages 14 up. Until now she has had referrals from all schools and Wasatch Mental Health.
- **Wendy** mentioned the mentor project from Salt Lake Valley region and our new relationship. They do it through community groups. They want to expand it in our area. The strength of this program is they work with older mentors - couples in their 40's, 50's and 60's.

This is what DCFS Western Region needs. We need lasting relationship for these TAL kids. Most of these kids do not have 5 people in their lives that will be there forever.

This would be one more opportunity for the mentor to be one of those life-long relationships.

- **Dave Bayles** with the Boys and Girls Club has a Federal grant and they are just waiting to get it going. This grant is set up for 50 kids ages 6 to 18. They need to run through 2 substance abuse programs which the Boys and Girls Club facilitate. Youth of incarcerated parents. We could involve the TAL program we would co-ordinate and work together as this has not started yet.

It was suggested that we need to pool all of these together and prepare an actual mentoring program. We do not want to compete. We need a clear understanding. The Safety Net is a great program.

Troy and Terri - how do you want to move forward?

They would like it organized outside of DCFS.

- Internal we are at risk with budget
- Outside could be contractual

It was stated that the kids don't want a DCFS program - the kids will buy into it if it isn't.

We need to find a way to organize this in the community.

Dave would be happy to do that, they run their own BCI. He agrees it does need to be a long-term engagement. Another group could train long-term. They apply yearly for the grant. Dave can't go over 50 kids.

It was also stated Salt Lake feels good with their model. They do not want to change their program. Hire them and contract with them and get familiar with their model

Troy will get a sub -committee to help with approval and meet with Dave and committee members right after this meeting.

Christmas Box House

- A kit was displayed. This is given to each youth as they age out of system. Many important items to help the youth set up house. Pans, dishes, etc.
- They now have this program in 4 states Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Wyoming. They will be adding Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, New Jersey and New Hampshire.
- Video was shown to committee on transition after age 18. Many informative statistics.
- Their goal is a kit for every youth. The Christmas Box has partnered with the Academy of Excellence in the past.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 13, 2009 - At the DCFS building